(c) what is the quantum of thorium available in the country and the names of the places where such deposits have been found ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITH. ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI.. BHUVNESH .CHATURVEDI): (a) India has recently offered a nuclear research reactor of ' an advanced design for export under the safeguard of International' Atomic Energy' Agency.' The design, .envisages using only urganium as fuel.. The reactor, is designed for..utilisation in basic and applied research for production of radioisotopes.

(b) In response to an invitation from Thailand for .making a prequalification bid, India has. recently, submitted relevant infor mation for setting up. a research reactor.

(c) About four lakh tonnes of Thorium Oxide ($TH0_2$) contained in 4,558 million tonnes of Monazite are available in,beach and inland placers of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Orissa .Andhra Pradesh,, West Bengal and Bihar

Supply of Taps Fuel

864. DR. BAPU KALDATE': Win the PRIME MINISTER pleased to state :

(a) the Indo-US controversy over the supply of Tarapur fuel has deepened as U.S. will neither allow to reprocess the spent fuel at Tarapur nor allow to use any nuclear,fuel at the,power.stations that .are not subjected to ..international inspection;

(b) if so, what are the implications involved .slating the reaction of the Government with, regard, thereto ; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to "keep the plant operational ?

THE MINISTER , OF STATE IN, THE PRI]VIE MINISTER'S OFFICE AND THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE DEPART- \ MENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE WITHADDITIONAL 'CHARGE OF HE MINISTER OF STATE N* THE MINISTRY OF'.SCIENCE:,^ND 'TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDT),:'j(a) and(b) The US simply of fuel for. Tararjur^ Atomic' Power Station, (TAP'S) stopped in' 1980. the 1993 Bilateral Cooperation Agreement .between the US and India for setting up of Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) expired on October 24, .1993. It is proposed'to continue operation of TAPS with a fuel core consisting of indigenously fabricated MOX (Mixed Uranium—Plutonium Oxide) fuel and Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) fuel. For this TAPS spent fuel lias to be reprocessed to obtain the'plutonium required for the MOX fuel. As a confidence building measure, the Government of India made a voluntary offer to IAEA, in August this year to apply safeguards on the nuclear material used in TAPS on a bilateral basis between India and the IAEA ; this offer is to take effect after the expiry of the trilateral.safeguards agree? ments on 24-10-1993. An adhoc arrangement valid till 1st March 1994 providing for safeguards has been' entdred into between the Government of India' and the IAEA.

(c) It is proposed to continue the operation Of TAPS under the arrangements mentioned above.

Hike.in Drug Prices ,

865. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUIRAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state':

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up in the Times of India of 1st September, 1993 regarding runway increase, in drug.-prices drug prices

(b) what action is being taken by Governmment to arrest this increa'se ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE' MINISTRY OF. PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF, STATE. IN, THE DEPARTMENT OF,ELECTRONICS, AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DE-